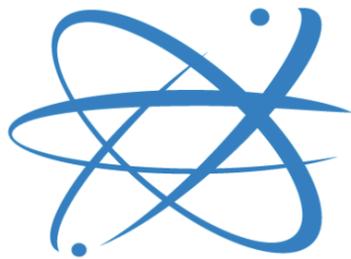


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# Illegal Wildlife Trafficking: Attacking on All Fronts



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## **Bush Telegraph, ABC**

Thursday 17 April 2014

The illegal wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar industry and although Australia doesn't have the scale of poaching found in Africa or Asia, some species of birds and reptiles are highly sought after.

John Scanlon, secretary general of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES), says the trade in Australia is concentrated on a 'pet collector market'.

'The species which are under threat from this trade are the parrots, cockatoos, snakes and lizards'.

Mr Scanlon says animals are mostly trafficked through the post, strapped to a courier's body or hidden in luggage.

'We have seen reptiles smuggled out in teddy bears and 3000 native ants put in plastic containers.'

This is not so much a presentation as an introduction to the presentations to follow

*First, a few quotes that have appeared on the internet in recent years*



# Australian Geographic

## August 2011

Wildlife theft is a massive, complex and nebulous beast. It ranges from individuals taking the odd bird as a pet, through to organised trafficking by international crime syndicates. Experts have no firm grasp on the size of the problem, but they are certain it poses risks to biodiversity. Although poaching in itself, doesn't seem to be directly threatening any Australian species with extinction, it "has the potential to severely affect the sustainability of wild populations", says David O'Sullivan of Customs and Border Protection in Canberra.

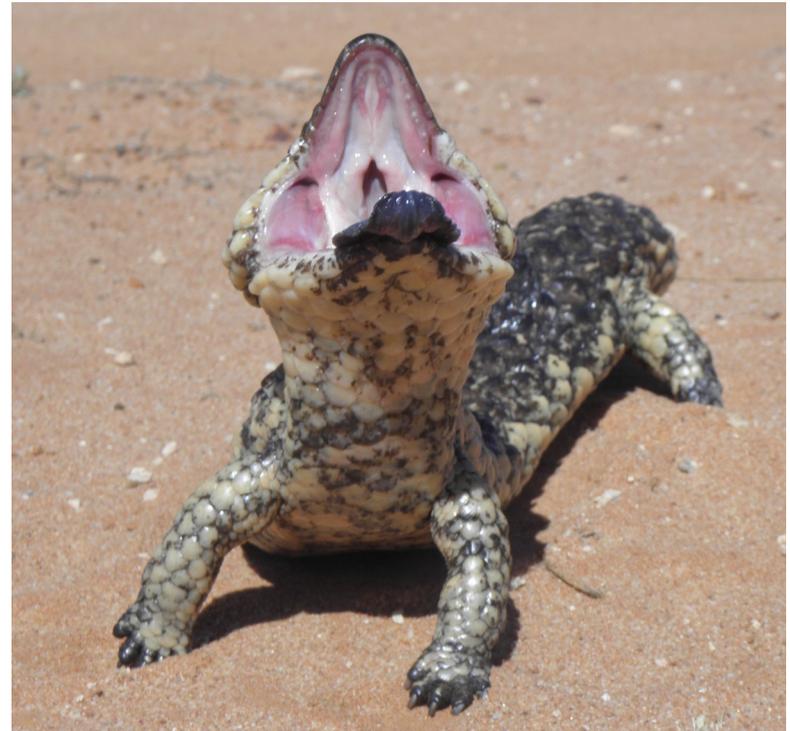


Photo Araucaria Ecotours

# Dept Environment & Energy

Some tourist souvenirs can threaten the most endangered species. You may be unaware that you are breaking the law by buying them or taking them from one country to another. For example, Tabua (whale tooth) and turtle shell (marine turtle) are both made from threatened animals.

Sometimes traders will not tell you the truth about what their product is made from or where they obtained it. If you buy something locally, it does not necessarily mean you can take it overseas.

Don't be fooled by statements like, "Believe me, it's OK".



Photo Araucaria Ecotours

# Australian Museum 2014

Wildlife forensic science is the science of identifying wildlife involved in crimes including the illegal poaching, possession or trafficking of protected and endangered animals and plants.

Illegal wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry that threatens the survival of many species around the world, and with the increasing profile of wildlife forensic science there is movement to streamline protocols and practices so they are more aligned to those used in human forensic science.

Wildlife forensic science becoming increasingly professionalized is a positive move and ensures that evidence presented in wildlife forensic science keeps pace with the expectations of the legal system. After all, in prosecuting wildlife crime, what we really want is improved biodiversity conservation outcomes.



Photo Araucaria Ecotours

# ABC, March 2017

**A man described as being "devoted to nature" has received a suspended sentence on 365 counts of taking and possessing protected wildlife in the Northern Territory, in what is believed to be the biggest protected wildlife seizure in Australia**

**Keerthi Eswaran, 32, was arrested last year after wildlife officers found about 1,300 animal parts at his Howard Springs home.**

"This appears to be the biggest protected wildlife seizure anywhere in Australia,"

Mr Rowbottom said at the time.

Eswaran pleaded guilty to all the offences.

But during sentencing on Friday, Darwin local court judge Richard Wallace said there was no evidence to prove that any of the species in Mr Eswaran's possession were endangered in the NT.

The sentence of 10 months in prison was suspended for two years.

# 7 News, March 2017

**A former NRL player has been arrested over his alleged involvement in an international wildlife trafficking ring.**



Photo Araucaria Ecotours

Police found snakes and a large amount of cash when they raided Martin Kennedy's Bondi home.

The convicted NRL drug cheat had been granted bail but would not comment on the charges.

On Friday the former Rooster and Bronco was arrested and charged with 41 offences for his alleged involvement in a lucrative reptile smuggling ring.

# What can we do?

- All of us can watch for suspicious activity
- Wildlife tour operators are well placed to do this
- We need to be able to report our suspicions safely
- Rangers may need more powers
- We need to check where animals have come from
- We need checks at airports and shipping ports: e.g. sniffer dogs
- We need to educate naive end buyers
- *But:* how do we get the “big guys” and combat high-level corruption?

# So ....

- We know of a number of attempts that failed
- We know of a few others that got away
- We just don't know how many others get away with it
- There are several ways we can combat this, and **we need to use all of them.**

